

IN RECOGNITION OF "NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION"

Whereas, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being. One in five American adults and children are affected by a mental illness; and

Whereas, mental health problems do not discriminate. They know no race, creed, age limit or economic status and people with mental illness can recover and lead full, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, an estimated two-thirds of adults and young people with mental health problems are not getting the help they need; and

WHEREAS, untreated or under treated mental illness costs public and private employers billions of dollars annually through absenteeism, turnover, low productivity and increased medical costs; and

WHEREAS, Augusta, Georgia has made a commitment to community-based systems of mental health care in which all residents can receive high-quality and consumer-responsive services; and

WHEREAS, the National Mental Health Association, the National Council for Community Behavioral healthcare and their national partners observe Mental Health Month every May to raise awareness and understanding of mental health and illness.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Young, Mayor of the City of Augusta, do hereby proclaim May 2002 to be "MENTAL HEALTH MONTH" in Augusta, Georgia. As the Mayor, I also call upon Augusta, Georgia citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illness and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Augusta, Georgia to be affixed this 13th day of May 2002.